

•who knew no compassion." The said Jews, by the way, after the usual fashion of renegades, had never evinced the slightest pity for the martyr of Devil's Island, but in their Catholic fervour had fiendishly approved of the abominable tortures devised by the Under Secretary for the Colonies, the strangely named Lebon. As for " La Croix," the organ of the religious orders, it viewed Zola's death with unctuous complacency, admitting that the occurrence might "well have been " a merciful accident by which at least one crime had been spared that wretched man.³¹ But another clerical rag, calling itself " Le Peuple FranQais," declared with all solemnity that God had stifled Zola in punishment for his sins. Others enlarged on that theme : it was by no mere coincidence, they said, that Zola had died on Michaelmas Day, St. Michael had really descended in the Eue de Bruxelles! Thus Paris was again divided into two hostile camps, Dreyfusites and anti-Dreyfusites confronting one another threateningly as if the Affair had sprung to life again from Zola's ashes.

There had been great changes, however, in government circles. An insidious malady having compelled M. Waldeck-Eousseau to resign office after carrying the policy of Republican defence no further than its first stage, the prime ministership had passed to M. Combes, a man then very much misunderstood by most people, who

ascribed to him a
vacillating character, whereas his friends were
aware that he
really possessed a remarkably strong will,
and that if he
now and again seemed to follow rather than
direct the
course of events this was mere diplomacy on
the part of
one who never lost sight of the goal he
desired to attain.
M. Combes and his colleagues were
undoubtedly on the side